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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

Farm Report



NO. 200

RALEIGH, N. C.

JANUARY 23, 1956

FARMERS REQUESTED TO LIST CROP REPORTS

All landowners having three or more acres are requested to cooperate with their County officials and township listers by making their crop report during the January listing period. There is a strong demand for agricultural information covering farming operations on the County level. This information is requested and used by individuals, public agencies and by local groups as well as State and National organizations. The annual Farm Census made by farmers enables agricultural workers at all levels to prepare effective farm programs which are in the interest of the farmers' welfare.

Farming today is just as much of a business enterprise as running a store or a factory and successful management in both instances depends largely on the possession of sound factual in-

formation about all phases of the operations involved. Farmers, individually or collectively, cannot wisely plan for the future without using and studying all available facts pertaining to agriculture in the same way as efficient business men analyze their operations.

The Farm Census helps the farmer by annually focusing his attention on stock-in-trade. It encourages him to take an accounting of his land, livestock and equipment. The information thus developed, enables him to do a better job of farming and farm marketing. Information furnished by farmers is kept strictly confidential and is available only to the landowner who makes the report. It is not connected, nor can it be used in any way, as a check against the farmer's personal and property taxes.

DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION SECOND HIGHEST OF RECORD FOR THE MONTH IN N. C.

Egg production in North Carolina during December 1955 was estimated at 106 million -- 1 million below the record high December production of 107 million for 1954. Estimated total production in the State during 1955 reached 1,451 million -- 2 percent above the 1954 production and the highest yearly total of record.

In the Nation, farm flocks laid 5,467 million eggs in December -- 2 percent less than in December 1954. Egg production was below that of a year ago in all parts of the country except the South Atlantic States. In these States production reached a record high level and was 4 percent above a year ago.

Egg production in 1955 reached a record high of 67,355 million eggs -- 3 percent

more than in 1954 and 16 percent above the 1944-53 average. Most of the increase was due to a higher rate of lay in 1955.

MILK PRODUCTION FOR DECEMBER

Estimated milk production on Tarheel farms during December 1955 totaled 129 million pounds -- only 1 million pounds below the record high 130 million pounds produced in December of 1954. A further comparison shows that the 1955 production was 3 million pounds below 1953, but 15 million pounds above the 1944-53 average December production.

Production on United States farms during December is estimated at 9,023 million pounds -- 2 percent above December 1954 and 12 percent above the 1944-53 average. Seasonally, production increased 3 percent from November to December as compared with an average gain of 4 percent.

RECORD HATCH FOR DECEMBER

Chickens hatched by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during December attained a total of 7,540,000. This was an all-time record for the month, exceeding the December hatch of 4,790,000 for the previous year by 57 percent and outstripping the 1949-53 ten-year December average of 3,597,000 by 110 percent.

There is a strong current demand for chicks for both broiler production and flock replacements, and hatchings for remaining winter months are expected to continue at a relatively high level.

Total chicks hatched commercially in 1955 amounted to 93,780,000, a 21 percent increase over the 77,623,000 hatch for 1954.

The national output of chicks by hatcheries during December was also the largest of record for the month. The number of chicks produced totaled 118,774,000 compared with 86,971,000 in December 1954 and the 1949-53 average of 84,315,000. The previous record hatch in December was 116,198,000 in 1953. The demand for chicks for both broiler production and egg production is strong and a record or near record hatch in January is in prospect as the number of eggs in incubators on January 1 was 32 percent larger than a year earlier. Approximately 44 percent more broiler chicks were placed in the 13 principal commercial broiler areas during December 1955 than a year earlier. Of the chicks hatched during December, 102,006,000 were for broiler production and 16,768,000 were for other purposes.

Turkey Operations

Heavy breed turkey poult production in December was reported to be larger than in December 1954 while light breed poult production was reported to be smaller. The number of heavy breed poult hatched during December totaled 966,000 compared with 539,000 in December 1954. The number of heavy breed eggs in incubators on January 1 totaled 2,660,000 compared with 1,460,000 on January 1 last year.

Light breed poult hatched during December totaled 938,000 compared with 1,655,000 in December 1954. The number of light breed turkey eggs in incubators on January 1, totaled 1,346,000 compared with 2,018,000 last year.

NORTH CAROLINA NET FARM INCOME FOR 1954 UP SLIGHTLY

Total net farm income to North Carolina farmers in 1954 is estimated at 577 million dollars. This represents 51.2 percent of the gross farm income of \$1,126,400,000. The estimate of net income is contained in a new series of income figures published recently by the agricultural Marketing Service and covering the six-year period 1949 to 1954 inclusive. Net income was determined by subtracting from the gross income, production expenses -- estimated at \$531,900,000 -- and a loss of \$17,600,000 in inventory values during the year.

The net income of \$577,000,000 in 1954 compares with \$569,600,000 for 1953 when net income was also calculated at 51.2 percent of gross income. In both of these two years the farmers percentage share is below that in other years from 1949 through 1954. In 1951 net farm income amounted to 60.6 percent of gross income.

Total net income per farm in North Carolina during 1954 is calculated at \$2,029, compared with \$1,973 in 1953 and the record high for the six-year period of \$2,381 realized in 1951. For the United States as a whole, average net income of \$2,413 per farm is 17 percent below the 1951 high point of \$2,919.

The North Carolina per capita net farm income has decreased 15 percent since 1951, having been estimated by years as follows: \$518 in 1951; \$458 in 1952; \$429 in 1953; and \$441 in 1954.

FARM FEED SUPPLIES

Farm supplies of feed grains are generally adequate in most all sections of the State. In some areas reports indicate a surplus. The large production of corn in 1955 is the principal factor for the adequate supply.

Supplies of hay and roughage are reported to be mostly ample. There are some localized areas that report local shortages, while a few also indicate some surplus supplies. For the State as a whole, supplies are considerably better than they have been for a number of years.

INCREASED CIGARETTE OUTPUT FOR 1955

Output of cigarettes in calendar 1955 probably totals near 414 billion—3 percent more than in 1954, but 5 percent below the 1952 record. A significant share of the decline from 1952 to 1955 is due to the decrease in output for shipment to troops overseas. The number of troops stationed outside the continental United States has been substantially reduced since 1952 and shipments for that outlet have dropped about 8 billion.

The 1955 domestic consumption (tax-paid removals) is about 383 billion, 3.9 percent greater than in 1954, but 2.8 percent below the peak of 1952. The number of tax-paid cigarettes dropped 2 percent between 1952 and 1953 but measured in pounds of tobacco, consumption increased a little due to the increased number and proportion of king size cigarettes in 1953. There was relatively little change in the proportionate share of king size from 1953 to 1954 and probably no great change from 1954 to 1955.

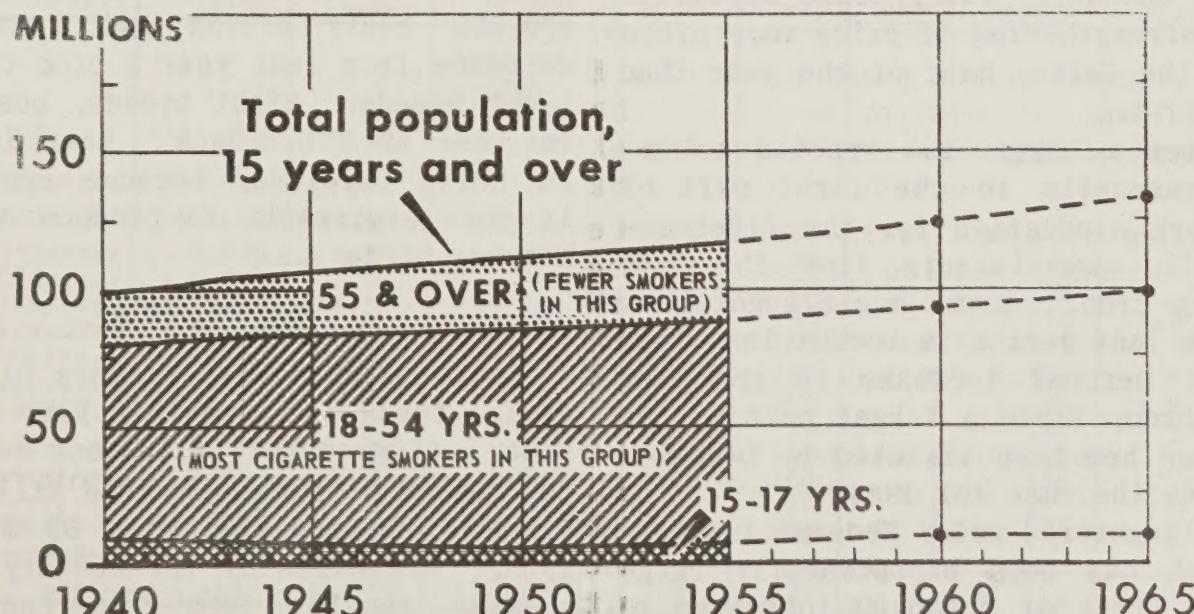
On the other hand, filter tip cigarettes increased substantially from 1953 to 1955 and a large majority are king size in length. King size, filter tip cigarettes require about the same quantity of tobacco per unit of output as the regular size but, of course,

less tobacco than the king size, all-tobacco cigarettes. It is estimated that all filter tip cigarettes increased from 3 percent of the total output in 1953 to about 10 percent in 1954 and probably to about 17 percent for calendar 1955. Unofficial trade reports indicate that by late 1955, filter tip cigarettes amounted to at least one-fifth of total output.

During 1956, domestic consumption of cigarettes is expected to continue to gain. Prospects for continued high levels of economic activity and consumer incomes are favorable factors. However, many consumers are having to pay higher prices for cigarettes. Twelve of the 41 States taxing cigarettes increased the rate of tax in the last year and beginning in 1956, Missouri will levy a cigarette tax. Also, smokers switching to filter tip cigarettes pay more per pack. Present Federal law provides for a reduction in the Federal tax rate on cigarettes as of April 1, 1956. The present rate of 8 cents per pack was placed in effect during the Korean emergency, November 1, 1951. Original legislation provided that this rate revert to 7 cents per pack as of April 1, 1954, but amendments twice postponed this.

By Age Groups

CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION RELATED TO POPULATION GROWTH



CENSUS ESTIMATES 1940-55; PROJECTIONS 1960 AND 1965

POPULATION INCLUDES ARMED FORCES ABROAD

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK FOR

BEEF AND PORK

More livestock was slaughtered and more meat was produced in the United States during 1955 than ever before. The turnout was especially large for the last quarter, when total commercial production of meat exceeded that of the same period for the previous year by about eight percent. Fourth-quarter beef production, up about six percent, established a new record, chiefly through slaughter of a backlog of highly finished steers on feed. Commercial pork production for the last quarter was around 3,150 million pounds, an increase over the October - December period for 1954 of 14 percent. This was a new peacetime high in pork output for the quarter, and it was almost equal to the record fourth quarter production of wartime 1943. Slaughter of steers was especially heavy as large supplies of long-fed animals built up during the summer and early fall, and the usual seasonal price increase failed to develop.

Even though the long-fed steer inventory was greatly reduced by the end of December, sufficient numbers were still on hand to maintain a substantial slaughter, and to deter early price recoveries. Total slaughter of cattle may be some greater during the first six months of 1956 than at the same time in 1955. Increases would come largely from cattle going on feed at an earlier date, and at heavier weights last fall than in the fall of 1954. Earlier marketings in 1956 than for 1955, when they were unusually late, would appear to make any strengthening of price more probable for the latter half of the year than for the first.

Slaughter of hogs is expected to decrease seasonally in the first part of 1956. Pork production for the first few weeks will come largely from the 1955 spring pig crop. Total hog slaughter may be up from last year by somewhat less than the eight percent increase in the last spring's crop, since a larger part of the spring crop had been marketed by December 31 than was the case for 1954.

Hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection, which had been exceptionally large since the first of October, increased to a seasonal peak the week ending December 10. The average October - November in-

crease over 1954 in inspected slaughter amounted to 18 percent. Total slaughter for the entire season will be up more than the increase in last spring's crop, because about 3/4 million more sows and gilts than for the previous year were released for slaughter by reduced spring farrowing's. Slaughter from about mid-February through July will consist mostly of hogs from the 1955 fall pig crop. The increase in that crop was 12 percent, but slaughter probably will be up more because of releases of stock by an expected downturn in coming fall farrowings.

Prices of hogs are expected to recover appreciably from their extreme lows of early December, but the increase will be limited by large marketings of fall pigs. By mid-spring prices probably will begin their usual spring-summer advance, but they are unlikely to regain last year's highest levels at any time in the first half of 1956.

LARGER TURKEY CROP EXPECTED

Turkey growers in North Carolina plan to increase turkey numbers this year by four percent over the number raised in 1955. If producers' intentions as of January 1 are carried out, turkeys raised will amount to 1,170,000 as compared with 1,124,000 produced last year. Of the total raised 1,104,000 would be heavy breeds and 66,000 would be light breeds. This intended division between light and heavy turkeys represents a 15 percent increase over last year's production of 960,000 heavy breeds and a 60 percent decrease from last year's crop of 164,000 light breeds. Light breeds, best adapted for use as "broilers" have lost favor in North Carolina, because growers find it more profitable to produce mature and heavier birds.

United States

Nationwide, turkey growers plan to increase turkeys raised this year by 6 percent. If growers' intentions materialize the number of turkeys raised will be about 67 million, compared with 63 million in 1955. All parts of the country plan increases ranging from 3 percent in the North Atlantic to 8 percent in the South

(Continued on Page 8)

PROSPECTIVE COMMERCIAL POTATO ACREAGE UNCHANGED

Early commercial potato plantings are expected to total 15,000 acres in North Carolina this year. If growers carry out their current intentions, the 1956 acreage will be the same as was harvested in 1955 but over 37 percent below the 1945-1954 average crop of 24,000 acres.

Intended plantings of the crop for late spring harvest in 12 producing states is 117,350 acres. This will be 7 percent less than the acreage harvested in 1955 and 22 percent less than average. The intended acreage in California is 62,000 acres -- 10 percent less than in 1955. In Alabama, the intended acreage is 19,200, 30 percent less than the amount planted in 1955 but 4 percent more than the 18,500 acres harvested last year. Growers in South Carolina reported an expected 8 percent decline.

The winter crop of early commercial potatoes, grown entirely in Florida in 1956, is forecast at 4,646,000 bushels. The 1955 crop was 3,868,000 bushels and the 10-year average is 2,532,000 bushels. Prospects for the winter crop are good. Harvesting is active in the Everglades, with digging expected to continue during most of January. Yields and quality are good. In the Fort Myers-Imokalee area, potatoes are making good to excellent progress. Digging of the red varieties in this area is expected to start the first week of January. A good crop is indicated in Dade County. Harvest is expected to start by the middle of February. No appreciable damage to potatoes by the cold weather during the first week of January has been reported.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES INTENDED PLANTINGS FOR 1956 WITH COMPARISONS

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1945-54*	1955	INDI- CATED 1956	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1945-54*	1955	INDI- CATED 1956	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1945-54*	1955	INDI- CATED 1956
COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES:	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES PRELIM.	<i>BUSHELS</i>			<i>1,000 BUSHELS</i>		
<u>WINTER:</u>									
TEXAS.....	830	500		57	55		48	28	
FLORIDA.....	10,730	12,800	16,300	231	300	285	2,484	3,840	4,646
GROUP TOTAL....	11,560	13,300	16,300	219	291	285	2,532	3,868	4,646
			<u>PROSPEC- TIVE</u>						
<u>EARLY SPRING:</u>	24,630	25,050	26,400	182	250	-	4,330	6,252	-
<u>LATE SPRING:</u>									
CALIFORNIA.....	69,000	69,000	62,000	406	475	-	27,842	32,775	-
LOUISIANA.....	9,030	4,600	3,700	78	45	-	644	207	-
MISSISSIPPI.....	1,520	600	600	90	65	-	139	39	-
ALABAMA.....	21,170	18,500	19,200	150	65	-	3,218	1,202	-
GEORGIA.....	1,040	600	650	130	100	-	141	60	-
SOUTH CAROLINA..	8,800	6,500	6,000	165	125	-	1,459	812	-
ARIZONA.....	4,150	4,800	4,000	374	400	-	1,548	1,920	-
TEXAS.....	4,890	3,800	3,600	71	65	-	347	247	-
OKLAHOMA.....	950	500	300	130	210	-	128	105	-
ARKANSAS.....	3,030	1,300	1,200	87	100	-	270	130	-
TENNESSEE.....	3,500	1,300	1,100	120	160	-	423	208	-
NORTH CAROLINA..	24,000	15,000	15,000	208	260	-	4,959	3,900	-
GROUP TOTAL....	151,080	126,500	117,350	276	329	-	41,119	41,605	-
ALL STATES.....	279,840	235,950	-	247	298	-	68,300	70,301	-

* Group averages (including All States) are simple averages of annual data.

FARM STOCKS

Corn

Stocks of corn on North Carolina farms January 1, 1956 totaled 45,273,000 bushels compared with 28,333,000 bushels a year ago and 42,191,000 for the 1945-54 ten-year average. The large stocks on farms January 1 resulted from the good crop in 1955 when 68,055,000 bushels were produced.

The United States stocks of corn on farms January 1, 1956 is estimated to be 2,191 million bushels compared with 2,093 million bushels a year ago and 2,058 million for the ten-year average. Stocks were 10 percent above January 1 a year ago in the eastern part of the Corn Belt with the largest increase in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri where 1955 production was up from the preceding year. Stocks were 12 percent lower, however, in the Western Corn Belt where 1955 production was under 1954 -- down sharply in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Kansas, changes in the two areas of the Corn Belt largely offset each other, resulting in only a small decline of 2 percent for the entire belt.

Wheat

January 1, 1956 stocks of wheat on North Carolina farms are estimated at 2,008,000 bushels compared with 2,333,000 bushels a year ago and 2,223,000 for the 10-year 1945-54 average. For the past several years the State's wheat acreage has been on the decline.

The United States farm stocks of wheat are the lowest since 1950. The estimated 321 million bushels of wheat stored on farms is nearly as large as a year earlier but 14 percent less than the 10-year average January 1 stocks of 374 million bushels. The relatively small stocks result from the smaller wheat crop of 1955, a reduction in the amount of wheat resealed on farms from the 1954 and earlier crops and the reduction in the quantity of 1955 crop wheat under Government Commodity loans stored on farms.

Hay

Stocks of hay on North Carolina farms as of January 1 are estimated at 333,000 tons. Present hay stocks are about equal

to the 10-year average although 27 percent more than was on farms for the same period a year earlier.

United States farm stocks of hay on January 1, 1956 are estimated at 73.9 million tons. These holdings are 1.3 million tons larger than last year, and the second largest of record, having been exceeded only by the 75 million tons on farms January 1, 1943.

Stocks are fairly well distributed over the country. They are above average in all regions except the North Atlantic group of states and even here stocks are about equal to the average of the last three years.

FAVORABLE VEGETABLE OUTLOOK FOR 1956

IF SUPPLIES NOT EXCESSIVE

With anticipated healthy economic conditions and high level of disposable income, the prices received by farmers for vegetables in 1956, compared with a year earlier, will depend largely on the volume produced and marketed. If output is about the same as in 1955, prices are expected to average near 1955 levels, possibly a little higher.

The prospects for a continued high level of employment and record or near record disposable income indicate that consumer demand for fresh vegetables in 1956 will be as strong as in 1955. Preliminary estimates reveal that economic activity for the third quarter of 1955 was at a record level, and prospects are that it will continue to be high in the year ahead.

With the present accelerated economic activity, relatively high earnings and rising wage costs, business management is expected to bring about further increases in investments for plants and equipment in 1956. Construction work, an important contributor to the high level of industrial activity during the past year, is likely to be a sustaining force in 1956. While residential construction may well be below that of a year earlier, commercial construction probably will rise gradually into 1956. The prospect is for some increase in spending by State and local governments, with much of the increased outlay going for schools and highways.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

December 1955 was cold and dry, the coldest in ten years and the driest of this century. Sunshine was plentiful, averaging about 60 percent of the daylight hours, as compared with a long-term December average of near fifty percent.

High pressure centered either to the West or the North governed the State's weather most of the month, and prevailing winds were Northerly. Low pressure storms passing at some distance affected the weather on several occasions, notably the 4-5th and 8-9th, but no storm center crossed the State during the month. High pressure centers, on the other hand, lay over North Carolina or adjoining states on at least seven days of December.

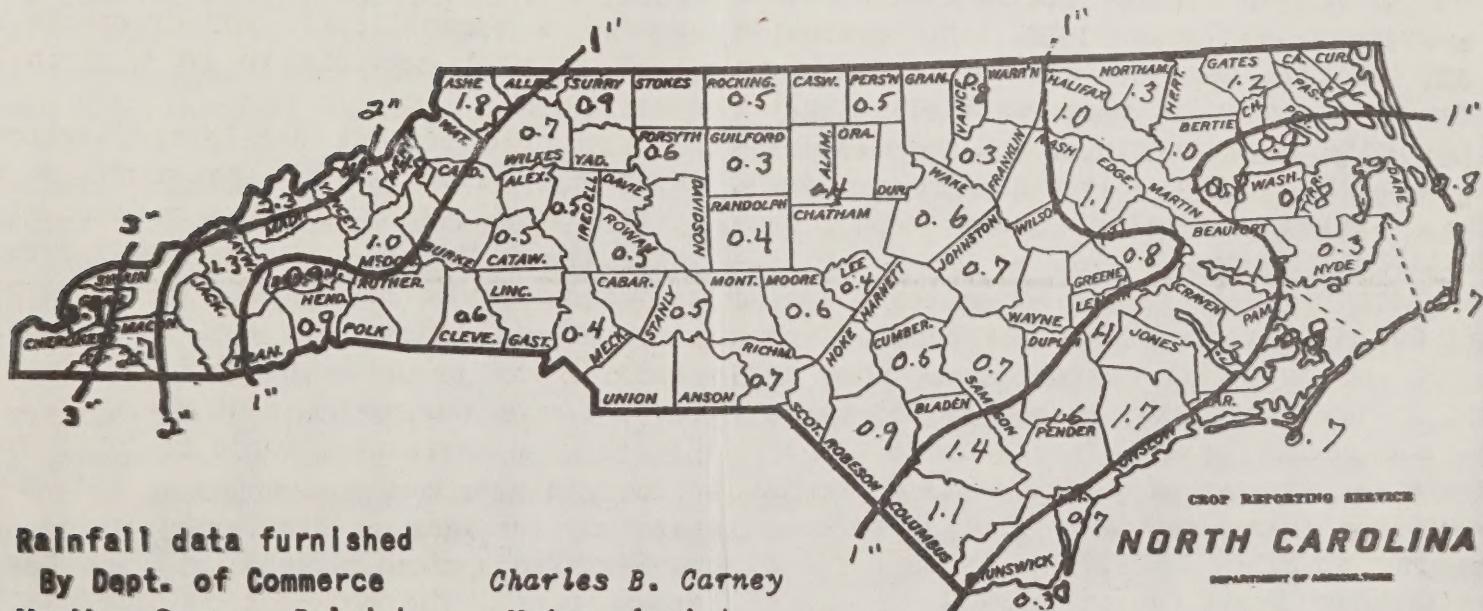
Cold weather prevailed throughout December, with the exception of a brief period around the 4th of the month and another similar period around Christmas Day. These two periods, lasting only about three days each, brought record high temperatures for the time of year to many places. Christmas Day was the warmest of record over a broad area from the southern mountains to the coast, with the mercury reaching 80 in the in-

terior southeastern counties. On the cold side, freezing weather occurred on about twice the usual number of December days, and lowest temperatures dropped below twenty in central North Carolina on six different mornings. The average temperature was about five degrees below normal, the lowest in ten years at most places, and in twenty years at some localities.

Rainfall was the lightest of record in most of Piedmont North Carolina, and it was the driest December since 1889 over the State as a whole. The average monthly total was about half an inch over the Piedmont, one inch over the Coastal Plain, and less than two inches over the mountains, for an average over the State of about one inch.

Rain was frequent but light during the first ten days of December, falling every day in some places. During the rest of the month there were only a few days with rain, and amounts that fell were still light. There was light snow or sleet in the mountains on seven or eight days; light flurries spilled over into the Piedmont on the 1st and 2nd, and measurable snow was recorded in the Northeastern counties on the 30th.

INCHES OF RAINFALL DECEMBER.



FARM REPORT

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TURKEY CROP (*Continued*)

Central and the West.

Heavy breed growers intend to raise 53,452,000 Bronze and other heavy breed turkeys this year -- 14 percent more than last year. All parts of the country plan increases in heavy breed birds varying from 7 percent in the North Atlantic to 38 percent in the South Atlantic States.

Higher prices received for 1955 heavy breed turkeys and a more favorable turkey feed-price relationship than a year earlier are the reasons given by growers for the expected increase in heavy breed production this year.

Light breed growers plan to raise 13,-489,000 Beltsville White and other light breed birds -- 16 percent less than in 1955. Decreases are planned in all parts of the country except the South Central, where an increase of 2 percent is expected. Decreases this year range from 11 percent in the West North Central to 25 percent in the East North Central States.

Turkey growers in the West North Cen-

tral States, an important producing area, plan a 10 percent increase in heavy breed turkeys, but a 11 percent decrease in light breed turkeys giving a 5 percent increase in all turkeys. Growers in the Western States, the largest commercial producing area in the United States, expect to increase heavy breed turkeys by 12 percent, but decrease light breeds by 19 percent. an increase in total of 8 percent.

The number of turkeys actually raised may vary somewhat from January 1 intentions, the difference depending on prices for feed supply and prices of hatching eggs and poult and the sale of turkeys remaining in grower's hands. In 1955, growers raised 4 percent fewer turkeys, about the same as intended on January 1, because turkey prices remained below a year earlier during the growing season and the feed-price relationship was less favorable.